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**State of New Jersey****DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES**

CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PO BOX 369

TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0369

www.nj.gov/healthJON S. CORZINE
GovernorFRED M. JACOBS, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

March 10, 2006

Mr. Nicholas Magriples
On-Scene Coordinator, Removal Action Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Edison, New Jersey 08837-3679

Dear Mr. Magriples:

This Letter of Technical Assistance is in response to a United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 2 request that the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS), through a cooperative agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), evaluate potential health risks posed by lead soil contamination detected at two residential properties located adjacent to the Matteo Iron and Metal site, West Deptford, Gloucester County, New Jersey. These properties are the Willow Woods Manufactured Home Community (MHC), 1762 Crown Point Road and a single family residence (leased to private individuals by the owners of Matteo Iron and Metal) located at 1686 Crown Point Road. Lead results of surface soil samples (0 - 3 inches depth) collected from these properties during the week of February 6, 2006 are as follows:

Location	No. Samples Collected	Average Lead Concentration (mg/kg)*	Maximum Lead Concentration (mg/kg)	USEPA Residential Soil Guidance Value (mg/kg)
Willow Woods MHC	42	812	4,900	400**
Private Residence	11	896	1,600	

*mg/kg = milligrams of lead per kilogram of soil

**Also the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Residential Direct Soil Cleanup Criteria for lead.

The average and maximum lead surface soil concentrations detected at the Willow Woods MHC were approximately two and 12 times higher than the USEPA Residential Soil Guidance Value (RSGV) of 400 milligrams of lead per kilogram of soil, respectively; the average and maximum surface soil lead concentrations detected at the private residence were about two and four times higher than the USEPA RSGV.

The NJDHSS, in cooperation with the ATSDR, consider the lead soil contamination in the sampled areas to pose a public health hazard. Environmental exposure to lead has long been recognized as a public health problem, and children less than six years of age are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of lead. Exposure to lead in soil has been shown to increase lead levels in children. Lead toxicity can cause decreased learning and memory, lowered Intelligence Quotient (IQ), speech and hearing impairment, fatigue, and lethargy. Maternal blood lead can cross the placenta and put the fetus at risk of low birth weight or premature birth.

Based on observations made by the NJDHSS during a February 22, 2006 site visit, there are completed exposure pathways to area residents (including children) via incidental soil and dust ingestion and dust inhalation. No continuous fence exists between the Matteo Iron and Metal site and the adjacent residential community. Toddler play equipment and toys (e.g., tire swing, swing set, toy car, sliding board, tricycle) were observed on property located between the MHC and the site. A significant portion of the ground surface within the contaminated area is bare soil. Crushed battery casings were observed mixed in the surface soil. The road leading to this area is used for vehicular traffic potentially resulting in the generation of contaminated dust. Although most adults walking through this area may not be at risk, they may track lead contamination on shoes or clothing into their automobiles and homes, potentially exposing sensitive persons such as children and pregnant women.

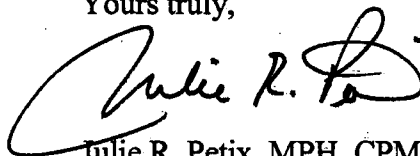
As such, NJDHSS recommends that the USEPA immediately notify residents of the Willow Woods MHC and the Crown Point Road private residence of the soil lead contamination detected in the sampled areas. Residents should be advised that children should not be permitted to come into contact with the soil in this area. Adults should also stay away from the contaminated area to avoid tracking lead-contaminated soil into homes and automobiles. Parents who suspect that their children have come in contact with contaminated soil should make sure that they:

- Have their children's hands washed often, especially before they eat and before nap and bed times.
- Have their children remove shoes before entering residences to avoid tracking in lead contamination from the soil.
- Wash toys, floors, and other interior surfaces often to reduce potential exposures to lead dust.

We support USEPA's plan to install temporary fencing as an interim action to demarcate and limit access to contaminated areas.

A more detailed and comprehensive evaluation will be provided to the USEPA in a health consultation being prepared for the site. Please contact me at 609-584-5367 or Julie.Petix@doh.state.nj.us if you have any questions. Public inquiries regarding this matter may be referred to Ms. Leah Escobar, Associate Regional Representative, ATSDR Region II at 732-906-6932 or Escobar.Leah@epamail.epa.gov. Thank you.

Yours truly,



Julie R. Petix, MPH, CPM, HO
Project Manager,
Health Assessment and Consultation Unit
Hazardous Site Health Evaluation Program

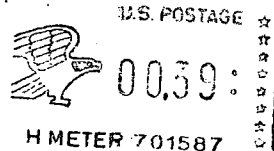
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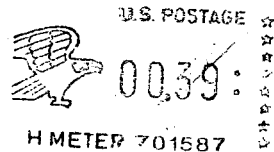
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